GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 2 OF 1942.

Confidential until released for publication as under :-

Morning Papers .. 16th February, 1942.
Evening Papers .. 16th February, 1942

RETAIL PRICES - DECEMBER QUARTER, 1941.

Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for December Quarter 1941 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were :- Brisbane 985, Toowoomba 972, Rockhampton 976, Townsville 1,025, Bundaberg 960, Charters Towers 992 and Warwick 945.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown :-

Town.	December Quarter 1941 - Percentage increase compared with-		
	Year Ended June 1939.	Dec. Qr. 1940.	Sept. Qr. 1941.
Brisbane ..	14.14	5.01	2.39
Toowoomba ..	14.22	4.29	2.10
Rockhampton ..	13.36	4.72	1.67
Townsville ..	12.39	5.45	2.09
Bundaberg ..	14.15	5.84	2.13
Charters Towers	15.35	5.76	2.27
Warwick ..	14.72	5.25	1.62

Clothing and footwear and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1939-40.

Town.	Clothing & Footwear.		Miscellaneous Items.	
	Percentage Increase on Sept. Qr. 1941.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on Sept. Qr. 1941.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.
Brisbane ..	3.67	43.06	0.68	9.67
Toowoomba ..	2.53	41.98	2.71	11.70
Rockhampton ..	2.91	42.49	-0.09	10.24
Townsville ..	4.66	44.52	0.00	10.23
Bundaberg ..	4.37	42.31	0.28	8.17
Charters Towers	3.30	40.12	0.24	9.48
Warwick ..	3.09	37.41	0.19	8.08

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) "B" Series.

Index numbers for December Quarter 1941 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were :- Brisbane 895, Toowoomba 865, Rockhampton 866, Townsville 937, Bundaberg 842, Charters Towers 844 and Warwick 819.

From September Quarter 1941 to December Quarter 1941 this index showed the following percentage increases :- Brisbane 2.17, Toowoomba 2.25, Rockhampton 1.52, Townsville 1.74, Bundaberg 1.81, Charters Towers 2.55, and Warwick 1.36. The Food and Groceries Index rose in all cities by the following percentages :- Brisbane 3.37, Toowoomba 3.79, Rockhampton 2.41, Townsville 2.71, Bundaberg 2.33, Charters Towers 2.51 and Warwick 2.04. The increase was mainly due to a rise in the price of potatoes aided by smaller increases in tea and beef.

Rents remained stationary in Toowoomba, Townsville and Warwick but showed increases in Brisbane (0.12 per cent.), Rockhampton (0.13 per cent.), Bundaberg (0.62 per cent.) and Charters Towers (2.73 per cent.).

Compared with December Quarter 1940 there were increases in the combined Food and Rent Index in Brisbane (0.11 per cent.), Rockhampton (0.70 per cent.), Townsville (0.97 per cent.), Bundaberg (1.45 per cent.), Charters Towers (2.43 per cent.), Warwick (0.61 per cent.), but Toowoomba declined by 0.46 per cent. The Food and Groceries Index remained stationary in Brisbane and decreased by 0.79 per cent. in Toowoomba but the other towns showed increases as follows:- Rockhampton (0.43 per cent.), Townsville (1.33 per cent.), Bundaberg (1.36 per cent.), Charters Towers (2.19 per cent.), and Warwick (0.56 per cent.). The Rents increased in all cities by the following percentages :- Brisbane 0.12, Toowoomba 0.35, Rockhampton 1.32, Townsville 0.35, Bundaberg 1.71, Charters Towers 3.23 and Warwick 0.73.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
BRISBANE. 13th February, 1942.

COLIN CLARK
GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in December Quarter 1941 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing and Footwear.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba ..	19. 9	19. 1	19.11	19.10
Rockhampton ..	19.10	1. 0. 4	17. 9	1. 0. 4
Townsville ..	1. 0.10	1. 1. 5	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 6
Bundaberg ..	19. 6	1. 1. 0	15. 2	1. 0. 2
Charters Towers	1. 0. 2	1. 1. 3	14.10	1. 0. 1
Warwick ..	19. 2	19. 7	16. 2	19. 8

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State.	METROPOLITAN.				STATE AVERAGES. c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State basic Wage in Brisbane.	Actual Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Q'land.	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State basic Wage in Queensland.	State Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s.d.	s.d.		£ s. d.	£ s.d.	s.d.
Queensland	985	4. 9. 0	4.9.0a	- -	985	4. 9. 8	4.9.8a	- -
N. S. W.	1048	4.14. 8	4.9.0a	5.8	1045	4.15. 1	4.9.0a	6.1
Victoria	1028	4.12.11	4.9.0b	3.11	1024	4.13. 3	4.8.8b	4.7
South Aust.	1010	4.11. 3	4.7.0a	4. 3	1006	4.11. 7	4.7.0a	4.7
West. Aust.	1012	4.11. 5	4.10.5a	1. 0	1026	4.13. 5	4.11.6a	1.11
Tasmania	1023	4.12. 5	4.6.0b	6. 5	1007	4.11. 8	4.6.0b	5.5

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth basic wage, applicable from first pay period of February 1942. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

Table No. 1. THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939.	Year Ending Decr. 1941.	QUARTERS ENDING. Decr. 1940.	March 1941.	June 1941.	Sept. 1941.	Dec. 1941.
Brisbane ..	917	863	963	938	950	954	962	985
Toowoomba ..	906	851	951	932	937	943	952	972
Rockhampton ..	903	861	959	932	947	953	960	976
Townsville ..	1023	912	1004	972	991	995	1004	1025
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	938	907	921	931	940	960
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	915	864	964	939	951	955	964	985
Charters Towers	925	860	971	938	958	965	970	992
Warwick ..	914	822	926	896	911	923	928	943

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June. 1939	Year Ending Decr. 1941	QUARTERS ENDING. Decr. 1940.	March 1941.	June 1941.	Sept. 1941.	Dec. 1941.
Brisbane ..	901	852	889	894	902	882	876	895
Toowoomba ..	833	821	853	869	866	836	846	865
Rockhampton ..	858	837	866	860	874	872	853	866
Townsville ..	1047	916	933	928	946	927	921	937
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	835	830	840	829	827	842
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	892	851	886	890	899	879	874	892
Charters Towers	942	783	835	824	841	832	823	844
Warwick ..	841	768	817	814	826	816	808	819

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity.	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF Sept. 1941.	Decr. 1941.	Commodity & Unit of Quantity.	Year Ending June 1939.	MONTH OF Sept. 1941.	Decr. 1941.
	d.	d.			d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb	5.33	5.75	5.75	Milk 1 qt.	6.00	6.25	6.25
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Bacon(Rashers) 1 lb.	14.81	14.86	15.86
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	37.73	41.77	Beef - Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	10.25	11.45
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Beef - Steak Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	13.50	15.30
Jam (Plum) 1½ lb.	8.02	8.97	8.97	Beef - Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	6.70	7.45
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	11.50	11.64	Mutton - leg 1 lb.	7.75	7.90	7.75
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.27	12.77	Mutton - Chops Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	7.65	7.50
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	4.00	2.95	Pork - Leg .. 1 lb.	11.40	11.75	11.85
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.24	6.24				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.00	19.00				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	13.27	13.27				
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	15.91	15.68				